

MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HURLOCK MINUTES

DECEMBER 12, 2011

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF HURLOCK MET ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE TOWN OF HURLOCK MEETING ROOM. IN ATTENDANCE WERE MAYOR JOYCE SPRATT, COUNCIL MEMBERS CHARLES CEPHAS, PARKER DURHAM, CHRISTOPHER ADAMS AND MICHAEL NORDSTROM; TOWN ATTORNEY HUGH CARTER VINSON, AND CLERK/TREASURER KATHLEEN CLOUGH.

FOLLOWING THE INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS, BY A VOTE OF 3-1, WITH COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS OPPOSED, THE AGENDA WAS AMENDED TO INCLUDE UNDER NEW BUSINESS THE APPOINTMENT OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM, THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 28, 2011 MEETING WERE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY WITH A CORRECTION OF A COUNCIL MEMBER'S NAME SECONDING A MOTION MADE ON PAGE TWO, FOURTH PARAGRAPH.

MR. DAVID OWENS PRESENTED THE POSITIVE RESULTS OF THE DORCHESTER RAILROAD FEASIBILITY STUDY. THE TOWNS OF HURLOCK AND PRESTON HAD PUT IN EQUAL SHARES TO HAVE THE STUDY DONE AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOL FOR HURLOCK. THE GROUP STILL NEEDS TO HAVE THE STATE GIVE THEM THE TRACK TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT AND A LETTER OF CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM THE TOWN OF HURLOCK.

MAYOR SPRATT SHARED THAT THE CHRISTMAS PARADE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS AND COMMENDED PLANNING OFFICER JOHN AVERY FOR DOING A FABULOUS JOB AND PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER IN THREE WEEKS WITH THE HELP OF THE HURLOCK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND OTHERS WHO VOLUNTEERED TO MAKE IT SUCCESSFUL. THE MAYOR ONCE AGAIN ANNOUNCED THAT THE CHRISTMAS HOME DECORATION CONTEST THAT FORMER COUNCIL MEMBER MICHAEL HENRY ALWAYS HELD, USING HIS COUNCIL SALARY FOR THE CASH PRIZES, WILL CONTINUE, AND THERE WILL BE CASH AWARDS. THE MAYOR IS SPONSORING THE EVENT WITH HER PERSONAL FUNDS; JUDGING WILL BE AT 6:30 P.M. ON DECEMBER 20, 2011.

MAYOR SPRATT ADVISED THAT COMCAST WILL BE RAISING THEIR PRICES, AND THAT GIFTS MAY BE GIVEN ON BEHALF OF OTHERS THROUGH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CHOPTANK.

ALSO, MAYOR SPRATT SHARED THAT MARYLAND COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT IS ASKING FOR HELP IN GETTING 10,000 SIGNATURES FOR HIS PETITION TO THE MARYLAND LEGISLATURE TO REQUIRE COMPLETION OF A STAND-ALONE FINANCIAL LITERACY COURSE FOR GRADUATION FROM MARYLAND HIGH SCHOOLS.

PLANNING OFFICER JOHN AVERY THANKED MRS. BOBBI JO BELL AND MRS. TERRI ERA FOR THEIR HELP IN ORGANIZING THE 2011 CHRISTMAS PARADE, ALONG WITH JOHN STITCHBERRY AND JOE SPRATT. HE REPORTED THAT THERE WERE NO GAPS IN THE PARADE, EVERYONE WAS IN THE CORRECT ORDER, AND THE PARADE WAS ONE AND A QUARTER HOURS LONG. IN THE PAST, THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BAND HAS RECEIVED A LARGE DONATION FROM THE TOWN. WHEN THEY CONTACTED MR. AVERY, HE EXPLAINED THAT THE TOWN WAS NOT ABLE TO DO THAT WITH THE ECONOMY AND BUDGET CONSTRAINTS. DURING THE TIME WHEN THE PARTICIPANTS WERE LINING UP, A GENTLEMAN APPROACHED MR. AVERY AND ASKED WHERE THEY WERE TO BE. MR. AVERY ASKED WHO HE WAS, AND IT WAS THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BAND; HE TOLD MR. AVERY THAT AFTER A MEETING THE BAND MEMBERS DECIDED THEY STILL WANTED TO COME AND PARTICIPATE IN THE HURLOCK CHRISTMAS PARADE AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE. FOLLOWING

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THE PARADE, MR. AVERY EXPLAINED THAT EVERY YEAR THE AMERICAN LEGION HAS A MEMORIAL TREE BY THE TRAIN STATION DECORATED WITH ORNAMENTS WITH ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS' NAMES ON THE BACK THAT ARE THEN GIVEN TO THEIR FAMILIES FOLLOWING THE PARADE.

TOWN ATTORNEY HUGH CARTER VINSON, ESQ., WAS THE GRAND MARSHALL AND LINDA WILSON WAS THE TOWN MARSHALL; THE HURLOCK CHRISTMAS PARADE WAS FUNDED ENTIRELY BY DONATIONS. THE VENDORS HAD A NO-COMPETE AGREEMENT, SO THAT NO ONE WOULD DUPLICATE WHAT ANOTHER WAS SELLING, AND THEY WERE VERY PLEASED WITH THE SUCCESS AND THEIR PROCEEDS OF THE DAY. MAIN STREET MARKET ALSO DID VERY WELL, ALONG WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION, SELLING HOT DOGS AND SOUP AND HOLDING THEIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR.

POLICE CHIEF HUTTON REMINDED ALL TO BE AWARE OF WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND THEM; THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTY AND DELAWARE HAVE HAD A LOT OF DAYTIME BREAK-INS AND METAL IN ABANDONED HOMES IS BEING STOLEN. HE ADVISED THAT IF THEY SEE SOMETHING UNUSUAL TO CALL THE POLICE OR THE SHERIFF. HE FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT PEOPLE KEEP A LOCK ON THEIR OIL, AND CHECK ON THEIR NEIGHBORS, ESPECIALLY OLDER FOLKS. CHIEF HUTTON ASKED THAT WE ALL REMEMBER CHILDREN IN SHELTERS, KEEP THEM IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS. HE SAID "WE ARE BLESSED, SO MAKE SURE YOU SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS."

COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER RICK PRICE ANNOUNCED THAT THE COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVED THE USE OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDS FOR A GENERATOR FOR NORTH DORCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL, MAKING IT A PRIMARY EMERGENCY SHELTER. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE FOLLOWING EVENING THE CEO OF SHORE HEALTH WILL UPDATE THE COUNTY COUNCIL. REPRESENTATIVE PRICE GAVE KUDOS TO HURLOCK FOR THE VETERANS' CHRISTMAS TREE, THE VERY SUCCESSFUL PARADE, THE CARRIAGE RIDES, AND THE WONDERFUL TURN OUT AND WISHED EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

UNDER OLD BUSINESS, THE MAYOR AGAIN BROUGHT UP THE NEED, BY MANDATE OF THE CHARTER, TO APPOINT A PERSON TO THE DISTRICT 1 SEAT VACATED BY FORMER COUNCIL MEMBER MICHAEL HENRY.

"COUNCIL IS REQUIRED BY THE TOWN CHARTER ARTICLE III. THE COUNCIL, § 307. VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL, TO APPOINT A NEW COUNCIL MEMBER TO REPLACE THE FORMER REPRESENTATIVE OF DISTRICT 1.

ARTICLE III THE COUNCIL § 307. VACANCIES ON THE COUNCIL

IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL FOR ANY REASON, THE COUNCIL, BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, SHALL APPOINT SOME PERSON, QUALIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 302, TO FILL SUCH VACANCY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE UNEXPIRED TERM."

TOWN ATTORNEY VINSON REQUESTED OF THE MAYOR THAT THE MATTER BE TABLED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING AS HE IS COMPLETING HIS LEGAL OPINION ON THE DEADLOCK. COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS SUGGESTED TO MR. VINSON THAT HE STOP WORKING ON THE LEGAL ISSUE AND HAVE THE COUNCIL VOTE TONIGHT.

UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS, MR. GARY HENRY WAS NOMINATED AS THE APPOINTEE FOR THE VACANT SEAT FOR DISTRICT ONE.

AFTER BRIEF COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS REGARDING HIS REASONS FOR THE MONTHS-LONG STALEMATE, MR. GARY HENRY WAS APPOINTED AS THE COUNCIL MEMBER FOR DISTRICT ONE FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS BY UNANIMOUS VOTE. COUNCIL MEMBER HENRY THEN TOOK THE OATH OF OFFICE, BEING SWORN IN BY

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MAYOR JOYCE A. SPRATT, AND WITNESSED BY THE FULL COUNCIL, TOWN ATTORNEY VINSON, AND CLERK-TREASURER CLOUGH.

UNDER NEW BUSINESS, UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER NORDSTROM AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS, COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM WAS NOMINATED AS PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION.

UPON MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS, AND SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER Henry, COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS NOMINATED HIMSELF AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION.

COUNCIL MEMBER HENRY ABSTAINED FROM VOTING, STATING HE HAS NEVER WORKED WITH ANY OF THE MEMBERS BEFORE.

VOTES FOR COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM AS PRESIDENT OF THE TOWN OF HURLOCK COUNCIL:

DURHAM

NORDSTROM

ADAMS

VOTES FOR COUNCIL MEMBER CEPHAS AS PRESIDENT OF THE TOWN OF HURLOCK COUNCIL:

CEPHAS

COUNCIL MEMBER DURHAM WAS NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF 3-1.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT BEFORE THE COUNCIL, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:40 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

KATHLEEN L. CLOUGH, M.S.
CLERK-TREASURER

JANUARY 9, 2012

DATE